

In the claims

1. (Currently amended) An escape device comprising:
 - a cable;
 - a rotatable cable dispensing assembly from which said cable is dispensed under load;
 - a braking mechanism operatively connected to said rotatable cable dispensing assembly; and wherein said braking mechanism is a centrifugal braking mechanism in which a brake spinner frame having one or more braking elements attached thereto is operatively connected to the cable dispensing assembly, and wherein each of said braking elements has a first end and a second end; and the first end is ~~are~~ pivotally mounted to said brake spinner frame and a spring element extends between the brake spinner frame and a region of the braking element proximate the first end thereof, and the first end of each of said braking elements ~~are~~ is biased into contact with a braking surface and the second end thereof is spaced a distance from the braking surface when the braking mechanism is in a rest position; and said braking element pivots from the rest position into a braking position and pivot under the influence of centrifugal force as an output shaft rotates to thereby bring the braking element progressively into contact with a the braking surface; whereby a braking response of the braking mechanism is proportional to the rate at which cable is dispensed from the rotatable cable dispensing assembly.

2. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 1, further comprising an outer housing having said cable dispensing assembly and said braking mechanism located therein.
3. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 2, wherein said outer housing includes cooling leaf members adapted to allow air flow therethrough to thereby dissipate any heat generated by said device.
4. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 3, wherein said outer housing includes guides to locate the position of the cable dispensed from said device.
5. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 1, further comprising a back plate mounted thereto, wherein said back plate is adapted to be strapped to a back of a person to thereby secure said person to said device.
6. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 1, wherein the braking mechanism is operatively connected to said cable dispensing assembly through the output shaft driven by the cable dispensing assembly and wherein said brake spinner frame having one or more braking elements attached thereto is connected to the output shaft and is rotated in response to rotation of the output shaft.

7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 1, wherein said braking mechanism is operatively connected to said cable dispensing assembly through a geared arrangement.
10. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 9, wherein said rotatable cable dispensing assembly includes a reel from which said cable is dispensed, said reel having an innermost surface which serves as a ring gear of a planetary gear mechanism and wherein said ring gear operates through the planetary gear mechanism to drive the output shaft, said output shaft serving to operate said braking mechanism.
11. (Currently amended) An escape device according to claim 910, wherein the planetary gear mechanism consists of three outermost planetary gears carried on a stationary gear frame and arranged around a central spinner gear and wherein the spinner gear independently engages all three planetary gears, whereby each planetary gear engages the ring gear such that dispensing of cable drives the ring gear which, in turn, drives the planetary gears and thus the spinner gear.

12. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 11, wherein the spinner gear is secured for rotation on a spinner gear shaft, and wherein the spinner gear shaft is also connected to the braking mechanism such that the speed of rotation of the spinner gear and thereby the speed of rotation of the braking mechanism is proportional to the speed of rotation of the ring gear and thus the braking response of the braking mechanism is proportional to the rate at which cable is dispensed from the cable dispensing assembly.
13. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 1, wherein said cable is adapted to be connected at a free end thereof to a launch arm attached to a building.
14. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 13, wherein the launch arm includes a channel member having a track therein adapted to hold a runner attached to the free end of the cable.
15. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 14, wherein said launch arm is movable between a retracted position in which the channel member is inoperative and an extended position in which the launch arm is available for use; said launch arm including a safety flap serving to restrict access to said channel member when the launch arm is in the retracted position and said safety flap being released as said launch arm is moved to the extended position thereby permitting access to said channel member.

16. (New) An escape device comprising:

a housing having a front wall, a back wall, and a perimeter wall extending between the front and back walls;

a back plate connected to the back wall of the housing; said back plate including a plurality of straps extending outwardly away from a surface thereof remote from the housing's back wall;

a cable dispensing assembly retained within the housing; said cable dispensing assembly comprising a reel operatively connected to a shaft that extends between the front and back walls of the housing; and wherein rotation of the dispensing assembly causes rotation in the shaft;

a cable having a first end secured to the reel and a second end that extends outwardly from the housing and includes an attachment means adapted to secure the cable to a fixed object;

a braking mechanism retained within the housing, said mechanism comprising a brake spinner frame operatively connected to the shaft, one or more braking elements attached to the spinner frame, each of the braking elements having a first end and a second end; where the first end is pivotally mounted to the spinner frame and a spring element extends between the spinner frame and a region of the braking element proximate the first end thereof, and wherein the spring element biases the first end into contact with an interior surface of the perimeter wall of the housing; and wherein the second end of the braking element is spaced a distance from the braking surface when the device is at rest; and wherein a brake liner disposed between the first

and second ends is progressively brought into contact with the interior surface of the perimeter wall when the escape device is used;

 a planetary gear mechanism disposed intermediate the dispensing assembly and the braking mechanism, wherein an interior surface of the reel of the dispensing assembly serves as a ring gear for the planetary gear mechanism and the shaft is operatively connected to a sun gear thereof.

17. (New) The escape device as defined in claim 16, wherein the back plate is contoured to fit a human back and at least some of the straps are adapted to be received over the shoulders of a user.
18. (New) The escape device as defined in claim 16, wherein the housing further includes a cable guide that extends upwardly and outwardly from the perimeter wall of the housing, and the cable guide includes a channel through which the cable is dispensed.
19. (New) The escape device as defined in claim 16, wherein the housing further includes a plurality of cooling leafs that extend outwardly from the perimeter wall of the housing.

20. (New) In combination:

an escape device comprising:

- a rotatable cable dispensing assembly;
- a cable having a first and a second end; where the first end is attached to a spool housed within the dispensing assembly and said cable is dispensable from the assembly under load;
- a runner attached to the second end of the cable;
- a centrifugal braking mechanism operatively connected to the spool; said mechanism including a brake spinner frame; at least one braking element having a first end and a second end; where the first end of the braking element is pivotally attached to the frame and is urged by the spring into abutting contact with a braking surface in the dispensing assembly; and the second end of the braking element is progressively movable by centrifugal force from a rest position where the second end of the braking element is spaced a distance from the braking surface to a braking position where the second end is in abutting contact with the braking surface; and a launch arm adapted to be fixedly secured to a building such that the launch arm extends outwardly beyond a side wall of the building; wherein the launch arm includes a channel member having a track therein and the runner on the second end of the cable is engageable in the track and is movable therealong.

21. (New) The combination as defined in claim 16, wherein the launch arm has a first end that is fixedly secured to the building and a second end that is remote therefrom and spaced a distance outwardly away from the side wall of the building and wherein the launch arm angles downwardly from the first end thereof to the second end thereof at an angle of between 4-5° from the horizontal.